

REMARKS

Claims 3-4, 6-7, 9-27 and 31-34 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 5 and 8 are cancelled, claims 3-4, 6-7, 9-20, 25 and 31-32 are amended and claims 33 and 34 are added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 9-17, 21-24 and 26 contain allowable subject matter.

Allowable claims 3, 6, 7, 9-13, 16 and 17 are amended into independent form. Thus, the claims are in a condition for allowance.

The Office Action objects to the specification because of informalities. Applicants amend the specification to correct the informalities. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

The Office Action objects to claims 1, 6, 14, 17, 31 and 32 because of informalities. Applicants amend the claims to correct the informalities. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 6 and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants amend the claims to obviate the rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 25, 27, 31 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Farrar (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0014524 A1); and claims 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Farrar. Applicants assert that the cancellation of claims 1, 2, 5 and 8 and the fact that claims 18-20, 25, 27 and 31-32 are amended to depend on allowable claim 11 renders moot their rejection. Applicants' further asserts that new claims 33 and 34 are allowable by virtue of their dependency on allowable claim 11.

Thus, the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 3-4, 6-7, 9-27 and 31-33 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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